



An Daras Trust
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities



St Catherine's C of E School

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Welcome Back to School! – Autumn 1

“At St Catherine’s Church of England School, we strive to educate our children to realise their aspirations and to contribute positively to society guided by our Christian principles.”



Welcome to our first newsletter of the Autumn Term! We cannot tell you how glad we all are to be back in school with the children and though we have had to make important, necessary adjustments to how we arrange our classrooms, teach our lessons and generally organise activities and movement around the building, the school is once again buzzing with happy, smiling faces and enthusiastic, motivated learning! We have

been overwhelmed by the fantastic attitudes of all the children, some returning after a very long absence from the usual school routine, and every class without exception has made a wonderful start to the new school year. It just confirms what we have always known – St Catherine’s families are definitely the best!

We look forward to a really positive, productive Autumn term and though there may still be challenges to overcome, we know that together we have everything we need to meet those challenges with confidence and determination.

Confirmed Diary Dates:

Autumn Half Term holiday: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October

Autumn 2nd Half Term: Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December

Spring 1st Half Term: Tuesday 5th January -Friday 12th February

Spring Half Term Holiday Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February

Spring 2nd Half Term: Monday 22nd February – Thursday 1st April

Easter Holiday: Friday 2nd April – Friday 16th April

Summer 1st Half Term: Monday 19th April

Values in Action Awards

These are our Values in Action Role Models:

Reception:Everyone!

Class1: Everyone!

Class2:Everyone!

Class3:Jessica-responsibility

Class4: Roseanna-friendship & compassion

Class 5: Daniel-compassion

Class 6: Denisa-courage

Learners of the Week Awards

These are our star learners:

Reception:Everyone!

Class1:Everyone!

Class2: Whole class for awesome focus and resilience!

Class3:Jack-responsibility

Class4: Patryk-resilient & reflective

Class 5: Rufus-responsibility

Class 6: Joe-using ALL the learning behaviours!

Flu Vaccinations

It that time of year where we are again offering the opportunity for children to have the flu vaccination (nasal spray) should you wish them to. Mrs Parish will be providing the necessary details on School Dojo so that you can follow the links and request the vaccination. No child will be given the vaccination unless we have had your permission to do so.

The closing date to request the vaccination is Tuesday 6th October in preparation for the vaccinations on Thursday 8th October.



Supporting Social Distancing at School – School Gate Protocol

Thank you for all your support with our morning and afternoon arrangements.

You will have heard that **cases are rising again and we all need to be vigilant** and continue to follow our guidelines for the safety of all. We want to avoid increasing issues and increasing our families anxiety at the school gates.

This video is a great reminder (and worth a quick look) from Cornwall County Council on school gate safety:

https://www.instagram.com/p/CFPRHpVH1_a/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

A couple of useful reminders:

Please **try to arrive at you allotted time**. If you are early, can I ask that you do not come up to the gates until your time so that parents and children for earlier slots can get through. This includes our year 5s who are great at waiting independently but should wait further back so the narrow fenced pavement is clear for families especially those with pushchairs.

Only **ONE parent** should enter the school site to drop and collect.

Please keep the car park clear at all times for exiting parents - I'm afraid children cannot play or congregate here. This includes our year 6s, who if walking should be exiting the site as soon as released.

Please remember the **'rule of 6'** - this includes all children and families even on the school run.

Please try **to observe the social distancing rules** and respect others' space when queuing. We have provided labels along the pathways to help you achieve this.

We know that these are challenging times for all and these requests can be tricky but we all have to work together to get through these next few tricky months.

Many thanks.



Phonics and Reading

If you walked around our Infant department first thing in the morning you would find groups of children working together with their teachers, HLTAs and TAs enthusiastically taking part in their Read Write Inc phonic lessons! We have had to adjust how we organise these lessons to maintain social distancing and preserve our "bubbles" but none-the-less everyone has gotten on board with great energy and enthusiasm.

Phonological understanding, leading to confident reading are at the heart of successful learning so we remain committed to ensuring we provide the highest quality teaching possible in all our classes.

“To read English successfully, children must learn to turn the words they see in a text into sounds, and make sense of these sounds. It is important for children to learn letter-sound relationships because English uses letters in the alphabet to represent sounds.”



We also try to ensure children continue to have appropriate reading books to take home to promote reading skills, however it is slightly more complex with rules for “resting” books between readers and therefore it is not possible to change books as frequently as we may have done in the past.

Your support and encouragement at home is of vital importance in ensuring your children become confident, enthusiastic readers and below are links to two short films you may find helpful, with demonstrations of how to make the pure phonic sounds and blend sounds into words.

Carry on the good work of reading and sharing books at home – it really is one of the most important ways you can support your child in becoming successful, confident learners.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqvqMtSNswo>

Promoting a love of reading

One of the initiatives we are pursuing at St Catherine’s to promote a life-long love of reading in all our children is the creation of a teacher’s reading shelf in all classrooms. These are special spaces where teachers have collected both children’s books that they love and feel the children in their class may love too, but also any other books they themselves enjoy or use in their teaching. In this way we hope to show by example how much we value books and reading ourselves and how passionately we feel about developing this within our classrooms.

Mrs Roberts, who has recently taken over leadership of English in the school, has been our guiding light in this project and as you can see has a fabulous reading shelf already well-established in Year Five!



Wider Curriculum



We are three weeks in and are pleased to say we now have a range of after school clubs in operation to provide valuable extra-curricular activity for our children, including football, racket skills, netball, multi sports, Y2 homework club and Y4 Times Tables club.

It's great that these activities can still go ahead and we just hope that the weather continues to look kindly on us as Autumn sets in!

We also have a number of intervention groups that we have been able to create in order to give a little extra support with the challenge of meeting curricular demands in the light of school closure. These are designed to be short term and changeable as the year progresses.

We encourage all children who sign up for clubs to be very dedicated in their support of the clubs and to only miss sessions if they are unwell or unable to attend for another valid reason. We believe that resilience and following through with the things you commit to are really vital life skills and hope you will support us in this by encouraging children to attend as much as possible.

Be Weather Prepared!

We have been blessed with some lovely late Summer sunshine, but Autumn is setting in and we know our weather can change from minute to minute!

Please make sure children bring **coats every day** as it is our policy to get outside as much as we can and this can be tricky if some children have not brought suitable clothing.

Many thanks for sending the children in trainers, this is a great help in getting regular exercise and for sending in wellies to change into where necessary.



Final Thought

As we continue to live through these challenging, uncertain times one thing we know for sure is that all difficulties are easier to face when we have people who love us and at St Catherine's we all aspire to live this throughout each day and support each other to the best of our abilities.



As always, many thanks for all your continued help and support that enables us work together to achieve the very best we all can for all our children.

Ms Pippa Warner – Head of School